(v) A project for providing facilities for pilgrims at Kamakhya has been sanctioned for CFA of Rs. 80 lakhs in 2002-03.

Regulation of Foreign Exchange Reserves

† 13. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further liberalise rules governing regulation of foreign exchange considering continuous inflow and vast reserve of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether restrictions imposed on extension of facilities of exchange of rupee with foreign currency by banks to their customers has since been lifted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has been progressively liberalising exchange controls over the last year. Further relaxation of controls would be based upon an assessment of both internal and external factors and the impact of national and international events on our reserves.

(c) and (d) The Rupee is not fully convertible to foreign currencies.

Renovation of Ranchi Airport

† *14. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ownership of land of Ranchi Airport rests with the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether difficulties are being faced in renovation of the Airport due to this reason; and

(c) whether any correspondence has been made in this regard with the Ministry of Defence?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.